Shoreline

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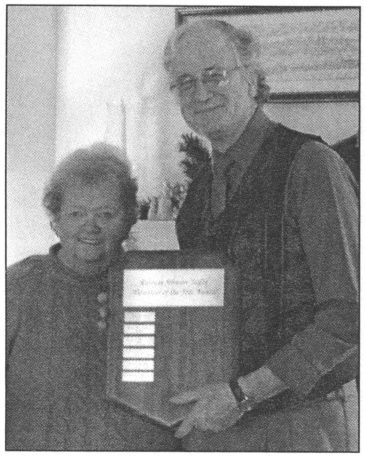
For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture Volunteer of the Year Award 2012 – Catherine Hudson

By Tess Carver, Nabb Research Center English Intern

Catherine Hudson has been a familiar face around the Nabb Research Center since January 2010. Though she may be a retired emergency room and mental health nurse, Cathy has remained consistently interested in government, history and the area in which she has lived her entire life – Sussex County, DE. Inspired to give back to the Nabb Center since it has been "so good to [her] with [her] own research," Cathy comes in once a week, accumulating over 20 volunteer hours per month.

The type of work she does for the Center varies – some days are spent researching for people from a distance who have ancestors in this area, while other days are spent filing and archiving newspapers and other artifacts. Typically, questions that revolve around Sussex County or people who once lived there are deferred to Cathy. However, some answers do not come easily. When asked what the most difficult or challenging aspects about her research projects are, Cathy explained: "With research, you sometimes hit brick walls. Frequently, there will be multiple people with the same name and more than one family line. Making sure you have the correct person is difficult when there are five people with the same first and last name, from the same area."



Dr. Ray Thompson presenting Volunteer of the Year Award to Cathy Hudson

However, these setbacks have come with rewards: "You know how difficult life must have been for our forefathers. The things we take for granted were their prized possessions – you can feel the emotion." Catherine revealed: "You can bond with someone who lived 80 years before you were born. It makes you have a different outlook on life."

Not to mention, Cathy greatly enjoys working with the people at the Nabb Center, including Dr. Ray Thompson and the staff who are "all fantastic people" and the students who are "always fun." Overall, Cathy said she was "surprised and honored at the award because there are so many others that give so much."

She continues to work with the Center on her own research, loving the enthusiasm for history she can share with the people here. "[Volunteering] is a win, win situation," she clarified, "You give a little bit and get a lot back in return – you find out a lot about yourself, your family."

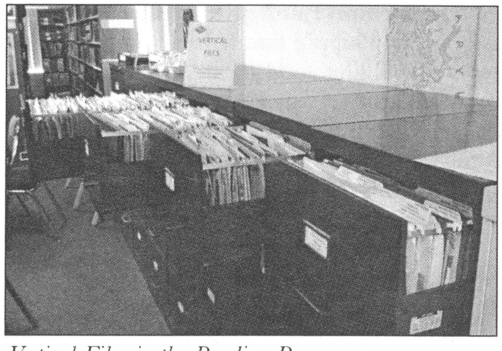
The Lost Art of the Newspaper Clipping

By S. Pilar Burton

Before there were computers with Wikipedia or YouTube, newspapers were the source of information for current events. Many people would cut out (or clip) articles that held some sort of significance to them. These clippings provided great insight into the era from which they came.

At the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, a Vertical File Collection holds a vast array of newspaper clippings on topics pertaining to the Eastern Shore. These topics include historical events, environmental issues, maritime accounts, people, folklore, architecture and religion, along with many other subject categories. The articles were published primarily in local papers during the mid- to late-20th century. However, since many of the clippings were given to the Nabb Center from Salisbury University's Blackwell Library collection, they may date back to the 1930s. Others have been donated by a variety of "clippers."

One such collection of clippings came from Dolores DuPont, formerly of Baltimore, MD. A local genealogist, DuPont has deep family roots on the Eastern Shore. Her clippings include historic homes and buildings, as well as articles on people of note or events pertaining to the Shore. DuPont also provided an extensive obituary collection, which is an invaluable tool for genealogists. She attached each clipping to a page and in several cases made additional notes that provide information relative to the topic.

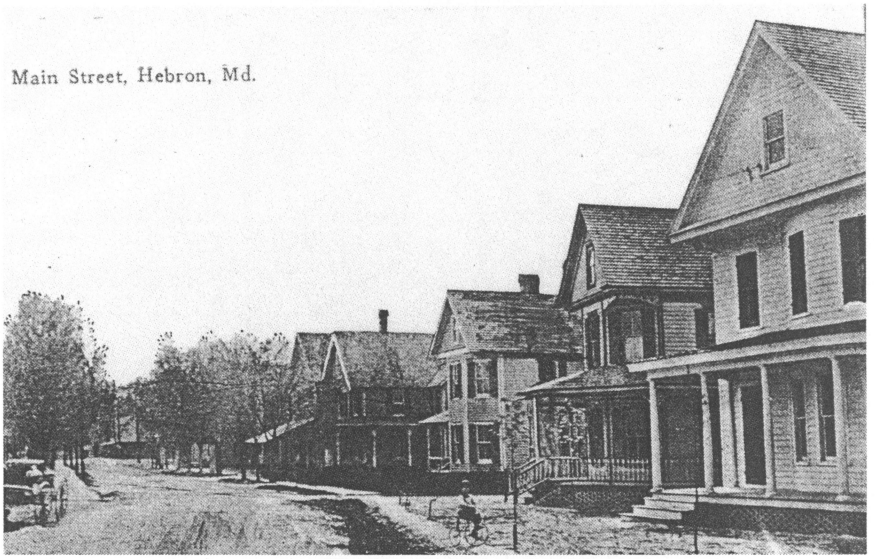


Vertical Files in the Reading Room

The Vertical File Collection has been an irreplaceable tool for researchers working on books or term papers. The collection is located in the Reading Room of the Nabb Research Center, and a finding aid helps make the collection user-friendly.

Jewels

By Jan Knode (updated and edited by Tess Carver, Nabb Research Center English Intern)



Main Street, Hebron, MD, ca. 1910. Nabb Research Center Collection

The Eastern Shore has countless historical jewels hidden all along the coast. Treasure chests of tales and traditions can be easily stumbled upon in everyday locations such as homes, churches and general stores. Jan Knode, a long-time Nabb member and supporter who passed away in 2011, discovered one of these rich histories while visiting Hebron, MD. The article that follows was written by Jan back in 2010 and details her unforgettable experience there.

There are remarkable oral histories found all across the Shore in sometimes unremarkable places. Small towns that dot the peninsula are still abundant with untold stories. Barbershops, hardware stores, general stores and even restaurants are brimming with history. I found one such place in Hebron, MD.

Years ago, after my mother and I had visited a relative in Quantico, she asked me to stop in Hebron for a bite to eat. "What's in Hebron?" I asked. She said: "Phippins. They have the best butterbean, corn and dumpling soup anyone could ask for" – and she was right! So just last year, I ventured out to see if it was still there and – lo and behold – there it was!

The Hebron Family Restaurant [its official name] has a long history. The Phippin family had made the restaurant a local favorite by selling good meals at a reasonable price. When that family sold the restaurant, it became a pizza and beer parlor that was unsuccessful in the community. It closed and the building remained vacant for almost two years when Gloria and Bill Senkbeil bought it with the intention of making it a family restaurant again.

Having no restaurant experience, Gloria turned to her friends and family for recipes and to food suppliers for quantities. She set up her own computer, printer and laminator for making menus. She and Bill offered the space to a Bible study group and the Lions Club to use for meetings until the space was completed. The Gateway Church of Christ also held services in the restaurant while their church was being built. However, the congregation outgrew the restaurant space and had to move to the Hebron Fire Department building across the street.

During this time, word spread around the community that the restaurant that served good Eastern Shore family food was back in business. The hours of operation were limited to 6 a.m.-2 p.m. on all days except Thursday and Friday when the restaurant stayed open until 8 p.m. People came in on certain days for specific meals like chicken and dumplings, spaghetti, butterbeans, corn and dumplings or just a good ol' hamburger. In fact, there was one couple who called the restaurant if they weren't able to come in for their regular dinner. If they didn't come and didn't call, someone would go to make sure they were all right. Another elderly gentleman had his daughter drop him off at the restaurant for his special meal and pick him up later. Guests came from all over: the Hebron area, Mardela Springs, Quantico and – like my mother used to do – from Delmar.

Currently, when the restaurant opens at 6 a.m., it becomes a hive of bustling energy as the local farmers come to get their breakfasts and chat with neighbors. Conversations range from the weather, to planting, to the economy and politics, or to "when I was a boy ..." – all customers sharing in the camaraderie of good friends.

Lunchtime brings a mixture of the young and old. Laughter, the rattling of dishes, the scurrying in the kitchen and conversations about the community fill the air. Generous helpings of food are put on plates while folks discuss weddings, funerals, births, politics or other random topics. One can't help but get a feeling of genuine warmth and good humor.

You see, it's not just the food that draws people to this place. It's a place for older generations to share their knowledge and experiences with younger generations. This is where the past mingles with the present in a leisurely atmosphere that is hard to find these days.

As long as places like the Hebron Family Restaurant exist, so will the unique culture and traditions of the Eastern Shore. You may not find yourself in posh surroundings with filet mignon on the menu, but you will find good food, good company, a smile on your face and perhaps a little bit of history.

Have you found a jewel lately?

Although Bill Senkbeil passed away last March, Gloria Senkbeil continues to own and run the Hebron Family Restaurant. Still located at 201 North Main Street, Hebron, the restaurant is open Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Copper Lustreware

By Brittany Cooper, Nabb Research Center Communication Arts Intern

The Edward H. Nabb Center for Delmarva History and Culture recently acquired 12 pieces of copper lustreware of various sizes. Some of the pitchers were functional because of their porcelain lining; however, other pieces were intended primarily for decorative purposes. Regardless, there is much history surrounding these seemingly simple pitchers.

The metallic and gold-like hue of copper lustreware gained popularity when it was used to create the illusion of wealth and status for many early 19th-century homes. A copper glaze was applied to different pieces of pottery and porcelain to create a deep golden finish; the iridescent hue of the copper glaze gave the impression of a more expensive gold piece. Emerging around 1824, this decoration initially became popular in Staffordshire, England, where it was first produced. However, Sunderland Lustreware in the northeast of England and Leeds, Yorkshire, are also well known for the production of lustreware. In the 1820s, Wedgewood's Lustreware began mass-producing copper and silver lustreware.

In technical terms, lustreware is "a glazed surface painted with metallic oxides, mixed with fine ochre and refined at a low temperature, to produce an iridescent metallic surface." (See photo 1.)

The lustre technique was first used in the Middle East as early as the third century to decorate glass. This technique continued through the ninth century when it was applied to pottery. It spread to Europe in the 16th century, where it later developed into English Lustreware in Staffordshire in the 19th century. Characterized by an iridescent glaze of copper, silver or gold, potters would use a small proportion of gold in their copper lustreware. However, gold is omitted today, causing newer pieces to lack the luster and depth seen in earlier pieces.

Copper is one of the more frequently found types of lusterware since the metal was, and still is, cheap and more suitable for everyday use. Currently, it is still being made at various Staffordshire potteries in England. According to *Miller's Ceramics Buyers Guide*, published in 2000, antique lustreware pitchers are usually 5-7 inches high and sell for anywhere between $80 to $320 dollars.

Many pieces of lustreware feature painted bands decorated with raised scenes that include berries, flowers, cherubs or portraits of people. Some of the designs include portraits of couples and commemorate weddings or other special occasions. The Nabb Research Center received pitchers with varying patterns. Most pieces have some decorative aspect to them such as porcelain bands with colorful pictures or copper lustre patterns.

What is most commonly seen in copper lustreware, and is reflected in the recently received collection at the Nabb Research Center, is a painted porcelain band either at the base of the pitcher or wrapped around the mouth. This pitcher is also painted with a copper lustre design. (See photo 3.)

Two of the pitchers do not have any designs on them, while another has a band of raised copper bumps around the base. Seeing a pitcher with a texturized look, such as the band of bumps, is rare. (See photo 5.)

Other pieces feature artwork that is hand-painted over the copper lustre. However, this artwork may have been done at a later date since it is uncommon to the work of Staffordshire, Sunderland and Leeds.

This donation of copper lustreware is just one example of the many types of items that are donated to the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture by generous patrons. We continue to utilize these items, not only to preserve our history and culture, but also to help train our students in the crafts of researching and writing about that history.

Photo 1

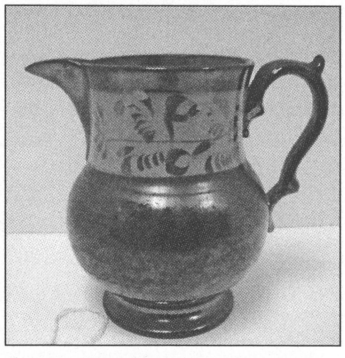


Photo 2
This piece of copper lustreware has a porcelain leaf-patterned band at the top. The design is actually painted in the same metallic oxide that is used on the body of the pitcher. This creates a subtle and iridescent hue to the pattern. In the collection, there is a smaller pitcher that matches this one.

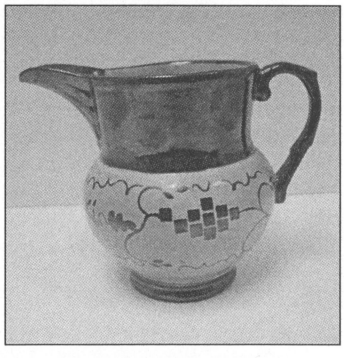


Photo 3

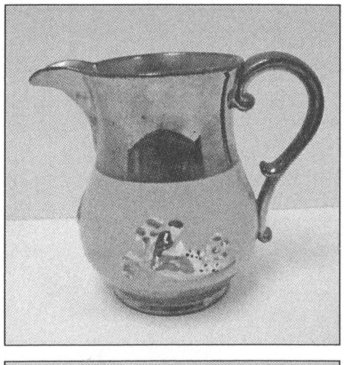


Photo 4
Many of the pieces depict raised scenes of flowers, cherubs or portraits – this piece shows a child sitting outside by a tree.

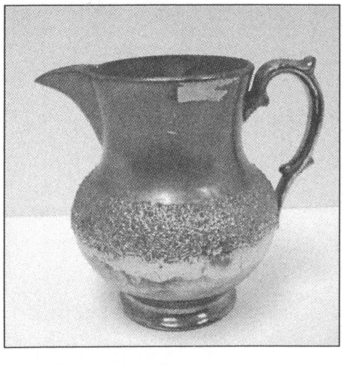


Photo 5

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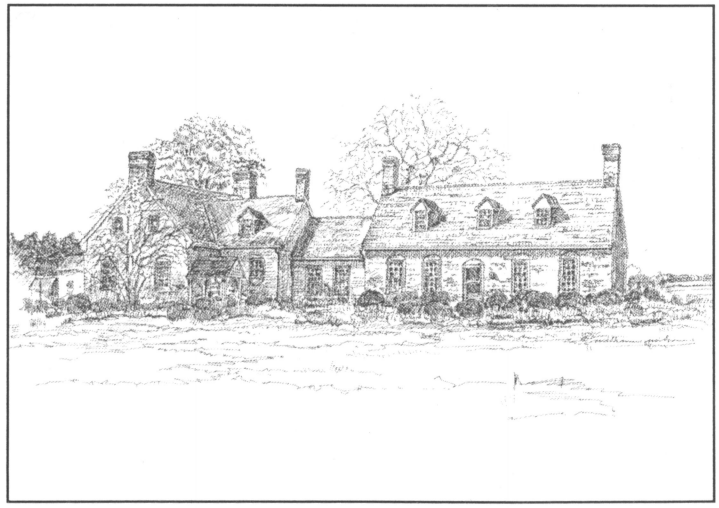
Exhibits and Events - Spring 2012

Exhibit: Nabb Gallery
February 4-May 10, MWF 1-4
Haitian Migrant Farmworkers on the Eastern Shore: A Historical Photo Document

Capture a rare glimpse into the lives of Haitian migrant farmworkers through the compelling photographs and field notes of documentary photographer Phil Decker, who worked in the mid-1980s as an outreach worker for migrant farmworkers in Salisbury. This exhibit and archive provide the Nabb Research Center with a significant historical document on the origin of the Eastern Shore's Haitian community, many of whom fled political and economic upheaval in Haiti in the '70s and '80s. Coming to the U.S., they picked vegetables in the fields of the Eastern Shore. Decker's photos depict a farmworker crew's life in Florida, on the road, in the fields, in the labor camp and in town.

Lecture: Nabb Gallery
Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.
"Transatlantic Origins of Early Delmarva Settlers" with Vaughn Baker

Baker shares three decades of research, revealing a matrix of connections among the first Chesapeake settlers, soldiers, merchants and pirates in the Caribbean, Newfoundland, France, Holland, Ireland and East Indies, as Virginia developed from settlement to colony. Learn about Gov. Thomas Dale, Thomas Savage, John Baker, William Whittington, John Custis, William Claiborne and other settlers who shaped Eastern Shore history.

Annual Fundraising Event: Near Marion, MD
Saturday May 4, 4-7 pm
Eventide in Old Somerset
Tickets $75

Join us in historic Somerset County, MD, for an elegant evening of fabulous food, music, potent potables and silent auction at Williams' Conquest (circa 1733) near Marion, Maryland. This beautiful, Colonial home constructed with Flemish bond brick still retains its original interior woodwork and molding. Tickets will be available in early spring. Call 410-543-6312 for information.